

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAR ES 01263 250201Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----126985 250209Z /73/53

O 231143Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8057
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 1263

EXDIS

LUSAKA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG
NAIROBI FOR SPECIAL EMISSARY MOOSE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR LAST PARA

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH TZ
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: US STATEMENT ON STATUS OF NEW SALISBURY
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH TIME MAGAZINE GROUP HERE MORNING MARCH 23 PRESIDENT NYERERE SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO "TAKE HIS HAT OFF" TO DAVID OWNE FOR OWEN'S MARCH 22 STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THAT "HMG CONSIDERS THE NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO BE ILLEGAL, AS WAS THE PREVIOUS REGIME." (THIS WAS FIRST Q AND A OF MARCH 22 DISCUSSION IN COMMONS WHICH UK/HIGH COMMISSIONER HERE MADE AVAILABLE TO NYERERE. OWEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHEN APPROPRIATE, HOWEVER, HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AS THEY HAD BEEN WITH THE PREVIOUS ILLEGAL REGIME.)

2. NYERERE SUBSEQUENTLY TRIED TO TELEPHONE ME AND, FAILING TO GET THROUGH, SENT HIS PRESS SECRETARY, SAMMY MDEE, TO SAY
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HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF A US SPOKESMAN COULD ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE WOO CONSIDER THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO BE "ILLEGAL". OUR BONA FIDES WITH HYERERE REMAIN HIGH AND I DO NOT THINK SUCH ACTIONS IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. HOWEVER, IF HODDING CARTER OR THE NEXT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WHO IS COMMENTING ON THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT COULD ECHO OWEN'S "ILLEGAL" CHARACTERIZATION, IT WOULD CLEARLY PLEASE NYERERE. I RECOMMEND WE TRY IT.

SPAIN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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